RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) 258 villages and 51789 hectares of land.

(b) Commissioner, Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation, Bansagar Project, Rewa has been entrusted with this work upto June, 1990, land acquisition has been done in 77 out of 258 villages whereas rehabilitation and resettlement grant has been paid in 45 out of 108 villages.

(c) In the meeting of the Bansagar Control Board held on 11-8-1990 Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have agreed to provide adequate funds for the project.

Smuggling across Coastal Line from Paradeep to Dhamara by Bangladeshi infiltrators

*208. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that narcotics worth crores of rupees are being smuggled across the coastal line starting from Paradeep to Dhamara by Bangladeshi infiltrators settled along the coastal belt of Orissa ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to curb the menace ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No such information has come to Government's notice.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposal to increase the limit of Foreign Equity Control

@*209. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Govt.'s consideration to increase the automatic approval limit for foreign equity control from 40 per cent to 51 per cent ;

(b) if so, what are the names of the industries to which the proposed new limit would apply and whether these measures would not impede self-reliance :

(c) the year in which the limit was brought down and fixed at 40 per cent and the reasons for doing so ;

(d) what are the changed circumstances necessitating raising of the limit again from 40 per cent to 51 per cent ;

(e) whether Indian industrialists have opposed the introduction of this measure; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) whether the new-policy will be discussed in Parliament before a final decision in the matter is taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (e) There is no proposal under Government's consideration at present to increase the automatic approval limit for foreign equity control from 40% to 51%. The foreign investment policy of the Government is guided by our national interest. Such investment will continue to be allowed within the framework of national priorities especially for purpose of modernization, meeting critical gaps in technology and production and for boosting exports. There is no fixed ceiling as such of 40% on foreign equity participation, although as a matter of policy, equity participation is generally kept to 40%. Higher foreign shareholding is permitted in areas of high technology or export oriented industries.

@Previously Starred Question 89, transferred from 13-8-90